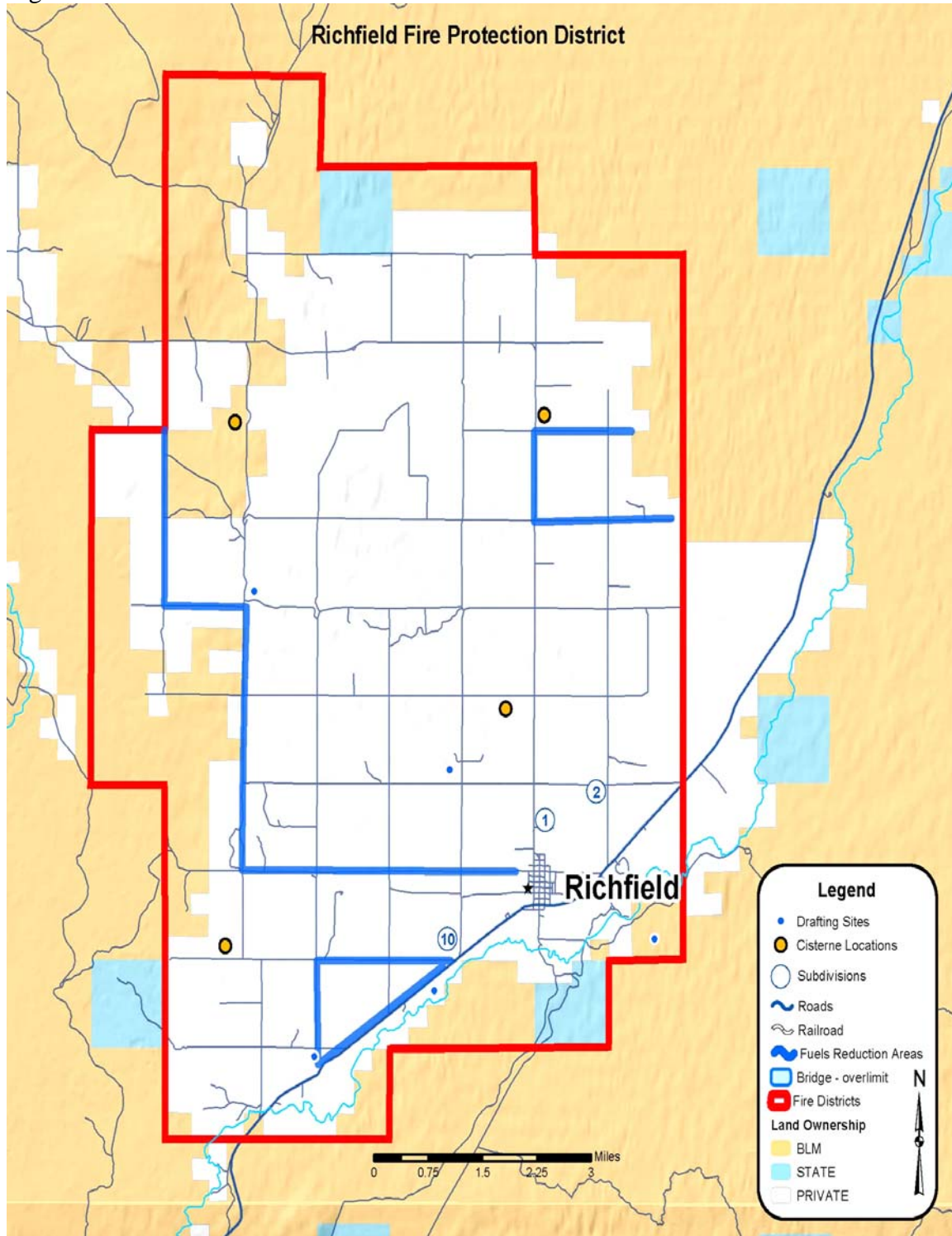


Figure 9. Richfield Fire Protection District



## 6.2 Richfield Fire Protection District

### 6.2a Fire, Structural, and Community Assessment for Richfield FPD

The Richfield FPD includes over 94 square miles of service area, which is moderately populated with private homes and ranches spread throughout the PD. (Figure 1)

The Richfield Fire Department responds to an average of six (6) brush fires annually on public lands, and since 1975 have been involved with fifty (50) wildfires for a total of 173,027 acres lost. Incidents are from both natural and human causes.

Open bodies of water or refill points include the Little Wood River, Richfield Canal, Dietrich Canal, Jim Byrns Slough, and numerous smaller canals and laterals. (Figure 1)

**Table 16. Richfield Fire Protection District Fire Cause Determination**

Year	Human	Natural	Structure	Vegetation	Vehicle	Other	Average Increase
2000	8	2	2	4	-0-	4	-0-
2001	9	2	3	3	2	3	.90%
2002	9	3	2	4	2	4	.91%
2003	12	3	3	6	1	5	.80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>.87%</b>

**H=Human/Man Caused**

**N=Natural/Lightning Caused**

**Other= power lines, standby, fuel spills, false alarms, investigations, hazmat etc.**

### 6.2b Fire Hazard Assessment For Richfield FPD

The following is a summary of **the Fire Hazard Assessment** for Richfield FPD. Table 17 Shows the complete results. The two (2) subdivisions in this FPD received a **Class A (low) fire hazard assessment rating for five (5) out of seven (7) elements for (71.4%)** and a Class B (moderate) fire hazard assessment rating for two (2) out of seven (7) elements for (28.5%).

The **overall Fire Hazard Assessment rating** for the Richfield FPD is **“low or 1”**. The only element of concern is the buildup of light fuels on undeveloped lots in and around the subdivision.

**Vegetation Type** – Sagebrush-grassland will be the primary carrier of any ignition to the wildland-urban interface.

**Slope** – Most slopes within the assessment are 10-30%.

**Aspect** – The majority of the structures within the assessment area face east.

**Elevation** – The elevation within the assessment area averages between 4000-4200 feet.

**Fuel Type** – Fuel types within the assessment area are primarily sagebrush/grass.

**Fuel Density** – Fuel density within the assessment area is broken moderate fuels with a 20-30% canopy cover.

**Fuel Bed Depth** – Fuel bed depth with the assessment area light – moderate, averaging 1-3 feet.

**Table 17. Fire Hazard Assessment for Richfield FPD**

Subdivision/Parcels	Vegetative Type	Rating Elements					
		Slope	Aspect	Elevation	Fuel Type	Fuel Density	Fuel Bed Depth
<b>Desert #1</b>	Sagebrush/grass	A	A	A	B	A	A
<b>Desert #2</b>		A	A	A	B	A	A

A=Class A low fire hazard assessment rating

B=Class B medium fire hazard assessment rating

C=Class C high fire hazard assessment rating

### 6.2c Structural Hazard Assessment

The following is a summary of the **Structural Hazard Assessment** for Richfield FPD. Table 18 shows the complete results. Overall, the subdivisions received a **Class A “low-1” fire hazard assessment rating for six (6) out of seven (7) elements for (85.7%)**, and a Class B (medium) for one (1) out of seven (7) elements for (14.2%).

The **overall Structural Hazard rating** for Desert #1 and Desert #2 subdivisions in the Richfield FPD is **“low-1”**. The only element of concern is the buildup of light fuels on undeveloped lots, and along roads and ditch banks within the subdivision.

**Structure Density** – The structure density within the two subdivisions is at least one structure per acre.

**Proximity to fuels** – Structures within the subdivisions assessment area and adjacent to the wildland-urban interface have an average of forty (40) feet to flammable fuels.

**Building Materials** – Less than five (5) of the structures within the assessment area have no fire resistant roofs and/or siding.

**Survivable Space** – 93% of the structures within the assessment area and adjacent to the wildland-urban interface have improved survivable space around the property.

**Roads** – Roads within the assessment area are adequate to maintain emergency equipment.

**Response Time** – Response time to the assessment area is five (5) minutes or less.

**Access** – Access to the assessment area is adequate. There are no narrow, dead-end roads or 1 way in, 1 way out and steep grades.

**Table 18. Structural Hazard Assessment for Richfield FPD**

Subdivision/Parcels	Rating Elements						
	Structure Density	Proximity Of Fuels	Building Materials	Survivable Space	Roads	Response Time	Access
<b>Desert #1</b>	A	B	A	A	A	A	A
<b>Desert #2</b>	A	B	A	A	A	A	A

A(1)=Class A low fire hazard assessment rating

B(2)=Class B medium fire hazard assessment rating

C(3)=Class C high fire hazard assessment rating

**Table 19. Community Assessment Summary for Richfield FPD**

<b>Rating Element</b>	<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>	<b>Class C</b>	<b>Rating (A,B, or C)</b>
<b>Community Description</b>	There is a clear line where residential business, and public structures meet wildland fuels. Wildland fuels do not generally continue into the developed area.	There is no clear line of demarcation; wildland fuels are continuous outside of and within the developed area.	The community generally exists where homes, ranches, and other structures are scattered but adjacent to wildland vegetation.	A
<b>Response Time</b>	Prompt response time to interface areas (? Minutes or less)	Moderate response time to interface area (? Minutes)	Lengthy response time to interface area (? Minutes)	A
<b>Firefighting Capability</b>	Adequate structural fire department. Sufficient personnel, equipment, and wildland firefighting capability and experience.	Inadequate fire department. Limited personnel, and or equipment but with some wildland firefighting experience and training.	Fire department non-existent or untrained and/or equipped to fight wildland fire	B
<b>Water Supply</b>	Adequate supply of fire hydrants and pressure, and/or open water sources (pools, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, etc.).	Inadequate supply of fire hydrants, or limited pressure. Limited water supply.	No pressure water system available near interface. No surface water available.	A
<b>Local Emergency Operations Group (EOG)</b>	Active EOG. Evacuation plan in place.	Limited participation in EOG. Have some form of evacuation process.	No EOG. No evacuation plan in place.	C
<b>Structure Density</b>	At least one structure per 0-5 acres.	One structure per 5-10 acres.	Less than one structure per 10 acres.	B
<b>Community Planning Practices</b>	County/local laws and zoning ordinances require use of fire safe residential design and adequate ingress/egress of fire suppression resources. Fire department actively participates in planning process.	Local officials have an understanding of appropriate community planning practices for wildfire loss mitigation. Fire department has limited input to fire safe development and planning efforts.	Community standards for fire safe development and protection are marginal or non-existent. Little or no effort has been made in assessing and applying measures to reduce wildfire impact.	C
<b>Fire Mitigation Ordinances, Laws, or Regulations in Place</b>	Have adopted local ordinances or codes requiring fire safe landscaping, building and planning. Fire department actively participates in planning process.	Have voluntary ordinances or codes requiring fire safe landscaping and building practices. Fire department participates in planning process.	No local codes, laws or ordinances requiring fire safe building landscaping or planning processes.	B
<b>Fire Department Equipment</b>	Good supply of structure and wildland fire apparatus and miscellaneous specialty equipment.	Smaller supply of fire apparatus in fairly good repair with some specialty equipment.	Minimum amount of fire apparatus, which is old and in need of repair. None or little specialty equipment.	B

Rating Element	Class A	Class B	Class C	Rating (A,B, or C)
<b>Fire Department Training and Experience</b>	Large, fully paid fire department with personnel that meet NFPA or NWCG training requirements, are experienced in wildland fire, and have adequate equipment.	Mixed fire department. Some paid and some volunteer personnel. Limited experience, training and equipment to fight wildland fire.	Small, all volunteer fire department. Limited training, experience and budget with regular turnover of personnel. Do not meet NFPA or NWCG standards.	C
<b>Community Fire Safe Efforts and programs already in place</b>	Organized and active groups (Fire Dept.) providing educational materials and programs for their community.	Limited interest and participation in educational programs. Fire department does some prevention and public education.	No interest of participation in educational programs. No prevention/education efforts by fire department.	B
<b>Community support and attitudes</b>	Actively supports urban interface plans and actions.	Some participation in urban interface plans and actions.	Opposes urban interface plans and efforts.	A

A(1)=Class A low fire hazard assessment rating

B(2)=Class B medium fire hazard assessment rating

C(3)=Class C high fire hazard assessment rating

The following is a summary of the Community Assessment for the Richfield FPD. Table 19 displays the assessment results. Overall the Richfield FPD received a Class A (low-1) community assessment rating for four (4) out of twelve (12) elements for (33.3%); **a Class B (medium-2) assessment rating for five (5) out of twelve (12) elements for (41.6%)**, and a Class C (high-3) assessment rating for three (3) out of twelve (12) elements for (25.0%).

The overall **Community Assessment rating** for the Richfield FPD is **“medium or 2”** which reflects upon community support for firewise education and infrastructure needs throughout the FPD.

## 6.2d Richfield Fire Department Infrastructure

### 6.2e Equipment

The Richfield Fire Department presently has two structure engines, two wildland engines and one refill trailer. The department has a good variety of mechanized equipment to support structural and wildland fire incidents. However, the structural engines and refill trailer are outdated and in need of upgrading with new, state of the art technical equipment for less maintenance and more dependability. Upon equipment upgrade, the ten (10) year equipment rotation technique should be implemented to replace outdated emergency equipment.

The department has the basic Personal Protective equipment (PPE) for necessary firefighter safety, however there is nothing available for new volunteers, personal protective items (nomex turnouts, and SCBA's) are expensive to maintain and difficult to replace when necessary.

Extraction tools are very expensive, but very important tools, when the needs arises. Extraction tools are considered “non-essential” equipment items; therefore normal funding is not available for purchase, maintenance or replacement. Every emergency service vehicle should have the basic set of extraction tools.

#### **6.2f Personnel/Training**

Presently Richfield FPD as a total of fourteen (14) volunteers, of which, ten (10) are active responders. The department needs more personnel to obtain the most efficient staffing levels on firefighting equipment and support personnel for replacement firefighters to have available if an incident involves extended attack. (Table 5)

The proper management of an all-volunteer program requires a lot of skill and finesse. It is difficult for volunteers to take time off their regular full time jobs for needed fire training.

The department needs basic and advanced fire training annually to bring volunteers up to National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) and National Wildfire Firefighting Safety (NWFS) standards. Also additional wildland and structural training is necessary to maintain efficiency, maintain new volunteer upward mobility training ladders, and have an effective training cadre. A recommended, standard ten (10) year training program, for each PD will be included in the final mitigation plan. (Appendix B)

#### **6.2g Facility**

Recently, (1998) the Richfield Fire Department constructed a new facility/station which adequately houses all fire equipment plus the Richfield Quick Response Unit (QRU). The new facility (Figure 10) affords the opportunity to house emergency equipment inside, protected from harsh weather and ready for a response year around.

The new facility has no restroom; no changing room; no office or training space, no storage space, and a gravel floor. Upgrade, or improve upon the new facility is one of the Richfield Fire Department’s top equipment infrastructure priorities. Estimated upgrade costs are included in the budget spreadsheet. (Appendix D)

#### **6.2h Prevention/Education**

The results of the structural assessment revealed the need for a promotional program to further the understanding of firewise practices around homes and agricultural structures. Public education and outreach are effective means of engaging the community in the process of reducing risks. And, an education and outreach program will motivate homeowners to take measures around their individual homes and property, thereby contributing to the reduction of wildfire hazards in each community.

**Figure 10: Richfield Fire Station, 2004**



**Figure 11: Highway 93/old UPRR ROW Typical Fuel Loading Richfield FPD**

